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***Marine Fisheries Advisory***  
**August 20, 2003**

**2003 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY TO CLOSE AUGUST 26**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has projected that 100% of the annual black sea bass quota has been taken. Consequently the black sea bass commercial fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The 2003 commercial black sea bass fishery will remain closed through December 31, 2003. Possession of black sea bass for commercial purposes will be prohibited until the 2004 fishery opens on January 1, 2004 with a possession limit of 100 lbs.

Dealers are reminded that it is unlawful to purchase black sea bass from Massachusetts commercial fishermen when the fishery is closed. State-only permitted dealers are required to submit dealer transaction forms by December 31, 2003.

Quota totals and regulations can be monitored through the *Marine Fisheries* web site at: [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).